made keeping in view the demand of beneficiaries based upon justification and availability of resources. The SIU of the Ministry of Finance was requested to conduct the norms study of the functioning of the ISM&H dispensaries under CGHS. Accordingly, the SIU has already undertaken the study of the ISM&H Units under CGHS but its report has not been received by the Govt. as yet.

Safe Injection Policy

19. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to undertake a study to document scientifically the existing injection practices in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the outcome of the study is likely to be available; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to formulate and implement a meaningful Safe Injection Policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A study entitled Assessment of Injection Practices in India has been planned by Government. A Core-Group comprising Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), professional groups like Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) and Indian Medical Association (IMA) as well as representatives from National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Directorate of Health Services (DGHS) and experts has been constituted. The terms of reference for the study have been finalized and endorsed by the Core-Group. The study is likely to commence shortly. The study will be completed over a period of 12 months after commencement. Results from the study would be utilized to evolve a safe injection policy.

Use of Restricted Medicines for Treatment of Cancer

20. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cancer hospitals use restricted medicines for treatment of cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government against the culprits in this regard;

(d) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to check such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Suicide cases due to Psychiatric Sufferings

†21. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is consistent increase in the suicide cases due to psychiatric sufferings;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to prevent the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir. As per a study done by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the suicide rates are higher in persons with mental illness as compared to general population, although, suicides are the end result of a multiplicity of problems.

(b) to (d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 Districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

In addition, treatment for mental disorders is available in a large number of territory hospitals in the Government and Private Sector.

†Original notice of the question was received to Hindi.